Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for detecting a material of a surface of a flat object on a stack of flat objects, the flat object being printing plates, which are separated by interlayers, the method which comprises the steps of:

using sensor electrodes resting on the surface of the flat object and connected to sensor electronics for conducting a measuring current through the surface of the flat object;

varying a frequency of the measuring current using a controllable frequency generator;

carrying out a plurality of measurements at different frequencies;

distinguishing a surface material by depending on the frequency of the voltage which is applied to the sensor electrodes;

evaluating measuring voltages determined from the plurality of measurements to detect the material of the surface; and

distinguishing between an exposure layer of the printing plates, the interlayers, and a rear of the printing plates before providing the printing plates for further processing.

Claim 13 (original): The method according to claim 12, which further comprises generating the measuring current with a frequency generator, and the frequency generator applying a high-frequency voltage to the sensor electrodes.

Claim 14 (original): The method according to claim 12, which further comprises using the measuring current for measuring an electrical resistance of the surface of the flat object.

Claim 15 (original): The method according to claim 12, which further comprises:

converting the measuring current into a measuring voltage; and

recognizing the material forming the surface from a voltage range in which the measuring voltage lies.

Claims 16 and 17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (original): The method according to claim 12, which further comprises determining the surface to be a surface type selected from the group consisting of paper, an exposure layer of a printing plate, metal, and 'no object'.

Claim 19-21 (cancelled).